

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Actions Information Sheet**

**Potential Release Site (PRS) 41-002(a)
Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Technical Area (TA)-41 is located in Los Alamos Canyon, upstream of TA-2. The primary activities that occur at TA-41 involve engineering, design, and development of nuclear component, including fabrication and evaluation of test materials for weapons.

PRS History: The wastewater treatment plant at TA-41 consists of three parts: PRS 41-002(a) is an Imhoff tank and an 800-cubic foot chlorinator; PRS 41-002(b) is a chlorine contact tank; and PRS 41-002(c) is a sludge drying bed. PRSs 41-002 (a-c) are all components of the treatment plant interconnected by a network of drain lines. PRS 41-002(a) the Imhoff tank and chlorinator were part of a small sanitary wastewater treatment plant at TA-41. The treatment plant was built in 1951 and received sanitary waste from TA-41 until 1987. The plant also received sanitary waste from TA-2 from the mid 1970's until 1987.

Documentation shows there have been several episodes of contamination within the wastewater treatment plant PRSs (a) through (c), especially with tritium. It is unknown whether surrounding soils and sediments have been contaminated due to plant operations, such as overflows or aerosolization of effluent and subsequent fallout around the plant. Potential contaminants of concern from both TA-2 and TA-41 operations include gross alpha and beta, tritium, uranium, plutonium, cesium-137, strontium-90, technetium-99, cobalt-60, mercury, beryllium, and lead.

PRS 41-002(a) is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module of the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not



proposed the site for no further action because additional sampling is needed.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 41-002(a) was burned during the Cerro Grande fire (a fire intensity rating of low to moderate). There is potential for erosion or scouring at the site. There is no debris that could enter the flood watercourse, and there are no structures that could interfere with or be impacted by flood mitigation efforts.

Accelerated Action Status: As part of the Cerro Grande fire recovery activities, accelerated actions have been implemented for the PRSs located at TA-41. A surface radiation survey was completed in October 2000 for TA-41 including PRS-41-002 (a) in order to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the site. No elevated levels of radioactivity were detected.

Related Documents:

"Solid Waste Management Units Report," Vol. III of IV (TA-26 through TA-50), LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.
"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.
"Sampling Notification," letter from D. McInroy, LANL ER Project, to J. Kielsing, NMED-HWB, Reference number ER2000-0429, August 17, 2000.